

MM93-48

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

4-17, 1996

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Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hunt:

I am deeply concerned about the new "rating system" for TV programming, to be developed by the television industry or FCC for use in conjunction with a "V-Chip."

A "V-Chip" and rating system must NOT be an excuse for the TV industry to shift responsibility for establishing and enforcing sound program standards off of its own shoulders onto the shoulders of beleaguered parents OR for the FCC to not enforce the broadcast indecency law -- which, as you know, was again recently upheld by the Federal courts.

Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that a large majority of the population are concerned about the glut of sex, violence and vulgarity on TV. A primary part of this concern is the effect on children and youth. But large numbers of adults are also personally offended and do not feel that TV shows represent their own values.

The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.

Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

Not that all TV programming is offensive or harmful. But, all too often, the TV industry serves its own interests, rather than the public interest, and reflects as "reality" the lifestyles and values of a small percentage of amoral or totally depraved individuals, rather than community standards and values. Ratings and a "V-Chip" may have their place, but not to "identify" a steady stream of cultural sewage packaged as TV "entertainment." The answer to this type of programming is to curb it at its source.

It has also been brought to my attention that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.

In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.

Sincerely,



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APR 20 1996

MM 93-48

August 22, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

May H. Trosky

6700-192 St

7 push Meadows, N.Y. 11365

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 19, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

COCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am very concerned about the deteriorating quality of the television that comes into all our homes. The proposed solution definitely needs to be examined carefully. I am speaking of the new "rating system" for TV, to be developed by the TV industry or FCC to accompany a "V-Chip."

Actually, it is likely that the TV industry will use this to their advantage in accelerating the amount of content undesirable for children during primetime hours.

The TV executives ignore the polls. The polls could not be more clear. Most American adults are bothered or alarmed by present TV overemphasis on sex and violence and vulgarity. There is little reality to be found on TV.

Along these same lines, I urge the FCC to enforce the broadcast indecency law as upheld by Federal courts no matter what occurs with ratings.

Examples of what should be considered in ratings definitely include the following: premarital sex or explicit sex of any nature, graphic violence, homoerotic content or promotion of homosexual "marriage," excessive vulgar language, nudity, and so forth.

Used properly, ratings and a "V-Chip" may attain the intended purpose. But more "NYPD Blue" and "viewer discretionary warnings" are not examples of proper use. Such programming should be stopped before it starts.

I understand that Congress has instructed the FCC by consulting with appropriate public interest groups to determine if rules established by TV executives for rating TV programs are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with appropriate public interest groups to establish its own rating system.

Whatever happens, one of the "public interest groups" that should most certainly be included is MORALITY IN MEDIA. This reputable organization has the interests of American parents and their children at heart and should be consulted.

Sincerely,

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M. R. Hunter

MM 93-48

16 Apple Orchard Dr.
Tinton Falls NJ 07724
April 23, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Sam P. Connolly

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MM 93-28

April 23, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Ruth M. Whitman

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